

It is imperative that all providers of Internet services, especially those that control service to large portions of the public, have their services and pricing structures periodically reviewed to ensure that they are not engaging in any practices that are harmful to consumers. Traditionally, a wide range of companies competing to earn customers has resulted in a self-regulating industry when it came to cost. Now, large companies like Verizon are controlling large portions of the market, and feel that they can change their Terms of Service, levels of service, and pricing when they want, without recourse, because "what are the customers going to do? go to someone else? there is no one else".

Further, Verizon is already engaging in deceptive practices through the information it chooses to make available to third-party companies that offer DSL Internet Service to consumers. For instance, every DSL provider that I have spoken with has told me that when they check the Verizon database to see if my line qualifies for service, they get a response that indicates that I do not qualify because I am "too far away from the central office". However, Verizon will gladly offer me DSL service directly. They are already stamping out competition by simply not letting the competition have a fair shot at earning *ALL* of the business that is out there.

If the FCC grants their petition to not be regulated at all, the situation can only get worse for consumers - especially after the competitors start falling to the wayside because Verizon will not give them a fair chance to earn their revenues.

Thank you,

Mark E Burdick